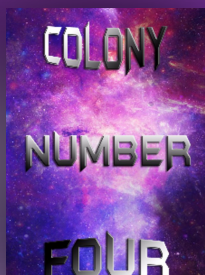




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# Colony Number Four



spaceship

dystopian

sci-fi

39 3 5

## Chapter 1 by Flashwake

Colony #4

Apollo-826

December 14, 2096

Jet had no idea what to do. He had been stuck on this boring hunk of metal for ages. Literally ages, as his birthday was in a week and a half. He'd be turning sixteen, old enough to drive back on Earth. He had mixed feelings for Earth. Yes, he was born there, and it was his home planet, but *wow* was it close to being destroyed by its own inhabitants. Civil wars on top of World Wars on top of natural disasters, Earth was close to death. Closer to death than any scientist, naturalist, or conspiracy theorist could've possibly imagined. Engineers and governments with at least half of a brain started to realize that all their eggs were in one basket: Earth. Soon, or at least relatively soon, the idea and seemingly impossible feat of technology that sparked Sci-Fi books and movies was real. Light-speed travel. As quickly as possible, the United Nations created ships the size of some planets' moons to hold people to colonize habitable planets. Even with the speed of these rockets, it took years to arrive to some of the closest possible planets.

Let being mischievous and sarcastic wasn't the favorite person for some people. He didn't care though, because the friends he *did* have were amazing. Extremely bored and lonely, Jet left his room to go talk to...

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Chapter 2 by dearsky



Zaine who was finishing up another round of holo-chess. He stared at the projections lethargically and whimsically said to his new compartment companion.

"How about we go outside and play a round of catch?"

"You know we're not close enough to the nearest star to try that without freezing our asses off."

"Well when is that going to be? It seems like forever since we gassed up the tanks and took our boots out for jog around the ship"

"We could always grab the maintenance suits and go run repairs. They have thermal conditioning."

"What repairs? All the tickets have been cleared already. It seems like we've been sitting in the middle of nowhere for ever, when is the reactor going to have enough juice for a jump?"

"Should be any day now from what the bulletin is saying, you'd know that if you checked your email."

"Who has time to read when you have every game in the galaxy at your disposal."

"And yet I catch you playing chess, probably one of the oldest games in the book."

"Classics are classics for a reason, you need to keep up on your strategy, plus these bots are insane."

"I don't understand why you need strategy for, we left Earth so we could escape war."

"Plus the compensation we'll receive if we manage to find a hospital planet was pretty alluring. The fact is though we'll never truly know what we'll encounter out there, what if we need to square off against some alien bad guys."

"Alien bad guys-- how improbable."

"Reality is stranger than Fiction." See more of Story Wars [now that by now!](#)

"I won't hold my breath"

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"They were cut off by an announcement that came through the on-board PA system."

"Alright ladies and uh, 'gentlemen', the reactor is ready to go, now let's vote for the next jump location, you do remember how to do that don't you? Any questions as always can be directed to the support forum. As per usual the jump will be based off majority vote and uh, I hope you've enjoyed your time here on the Artemis." A chime followed the announcement and both Jet and Zaine approached their terminal and tried their best to see if there was anything promising in the selection. As per usual Earth still remained an option on the list but who knew how many jumps it would take to get back there at this point.

"Shit, I forgot my phone in my room, I'll go grab it and we can decide together what we want to vote for this time." said Jet making his way towards the door.

"Sounds good man..." Zaine said not looking up from his terminal, he was staring intensely at the screen, for some reason one of the selections had really caught his attention.

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